

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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-----083611 221328Z /53

O P 221302Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 519
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 1708

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR, MARR, UN, IS, LE
SUBJECT: SOUTHERN LEBANON

REF: (A) STATE 72516, (B) USUN 1026

1. AFTER IT BECAME APPARENT THAT NEITHER FONMIN (WHO WAS MEETING IRANIAN PRINCE GHOLAM REZA AT AIRPORT) NOR MFA UNDERSEC (WHO WAS ESCORTING MALTESE PRIMEMIN MINTOFF) WOULD BE AVAILABLE, I DECIDED TO SETTLE FOR LESS SATISFACTORY ALTERNATIVE OF MAKING DEMARCHE CALLED FOR IN REF. A TO DIRECTOR OF POLITICAL DEPT. AMBASSADOR ABDUL-SAMAD, WHOM I SAW MARCH 22 TOGETHER WITH KHALID BABTAIN, ANOTHER OFFICER OF MFA POLITICAL DEPT.

2. FOR MY PRESENTATION I DREW ON MATERIAL PROVIDED IN REF. A, REITERATING AT END THE USG
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REQUEST THAT THE GOK (A) USE ITS INFLUENCE TO CONVINCE PLO TO OBSERVE THE CEASEFIRE IN SOUTHERN LEBANON; (B) URGE SYRIANS TO HALT THE PASSAGE OF IRAQI CONVOYS WITH MILITARY EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES THROUGH SYRIA INTO LEBANON, AND (C) SUPPORT UN AND LEBANESE EFFORTS TO WORK OUT ARRANGEMENTS WITH SYRIANS AND ISRAELIS TO MOVE ADF FROM RED LINE TO LITANI RIVER.

3. IN ORDER TO IMPRESS MFA OFFICIALS WITH FACT THAT APPROPRIATE STEPS WERE BEING TAKEN PROMPTLY TO ACHIEVE WITHDRAWAL OF ISRAELI FORCES FROM SOUTHERN LEBANON AND RETURN OF AREA TO LEBANESE CONTROL, AND EVENTUAL NORMALCY, I INFORMED ABDUL-SAMAD OF UNSYG'S REPORT OF HIS TELEPHONE CALL WITH PRIMIN BEGIN (PARA 2, REF. A). I ALSO SUGGESTED THAT RAPID PACE AT WHICH EVENTS WERE PROCEEDING SHOULD SERVE TO ALLAY AMBASSADOR BISHARA'S CONCERN (REPORTED IN REF. B) ABOUT POSSIBLE NEED FOR FURTHER UNSC MEETING MARCH 22.

4. AFTER PROMISING TO CONVEY THESE POINTS TO SENIOR MFA AUTHORITIES, ABDUL-SAMAD PROVIDED EXTENDED COMMENT WHICH, IN ESSENCE, CONVEYED VIEW THAT POINTS I HAD RAISED REGARDING POSSIBLE OBSTACLES TO SMOOTH IMPLEMENTATION OF UN RES. 425 WOULD ALL BE TAKEN CARE OF BY IMMEDIATE AND UNCONDITIONAL ISRAELI FORCE WITHDRAWAL FROM SOUTH LEBANON.

5. IN RESPONSE, I STRESSED THAT IN REALITY THE PROBLEMS I HAD RAISED WERE INDEED IMPORTANT, FOR, IF NOT DEALT WITH PROMPTLY, THEY COULD LEAD TO A DETERIORATION OF THE SITUATION THERE. I CONCLUDED OUR MEETING BY ASKING AGAIN THAT ABDUL-SAMAD REPORT MY DEMARCHE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER AND/OR THE UNDERSECRETARY.
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MAESTRONE

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